

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 14, 2001

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NASHVILLE—Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of May 2001 is 4.1 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point over the month, announced Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill.

"The unemployment rate continues to hover at a very low rate," Magill stated. "As we enter the summer months with such a tight labor market, the job outlook is positive for those college and high school students looking for employment."

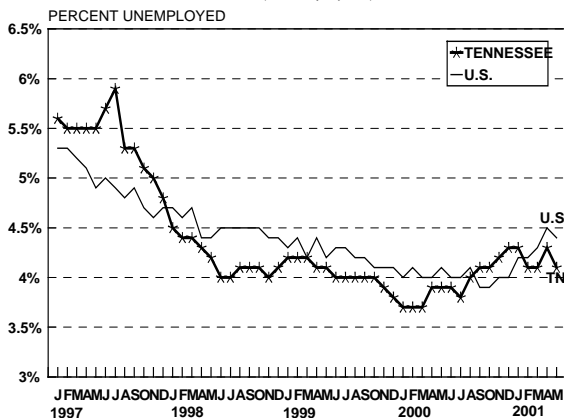
The state rate remained lower than the national average, which registered 4.4 percent. At this time last year, the state rate was 3.9 percent and the national average was 4.1 percent.

The employment picture changed very little over the month with the beginning of the tourist season causing shifts in both the retail trade and services industries. A breakdown of non-farm jobs shows that retail trade was up by 5,300, services added 3,300, and construction gained 2,200.

Employment declined in state education by 3,800 as student workers decreased throughout the state. Manufacturing was off by 2,100, mainly in electronic/electrical equipment and industrial machinery, and personal services was down by 2,100.

The May 2000 to May 2001 comparison shows that services gained 20,800 jobs, retail trade added 11,300, and transportation grew by 4,900. Job losses continued in durable goods manufacturing, down by 11,800, with declines in electronic/electric equipment and furniture/fixtures. Non-durable goods manufacturing decreased by 6,400, mainly in apparel and rubber/miscellaneous plastics. Federal government was down by 6,100 over the year, as May 2000 accounted for the large increase in census workers across the state.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - U.S. & TENNESSEE**  
**JANUARY 1997 - PRESENT**  
(seasonally adjusted)



## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

May 2001 (preliminary) - BM2000

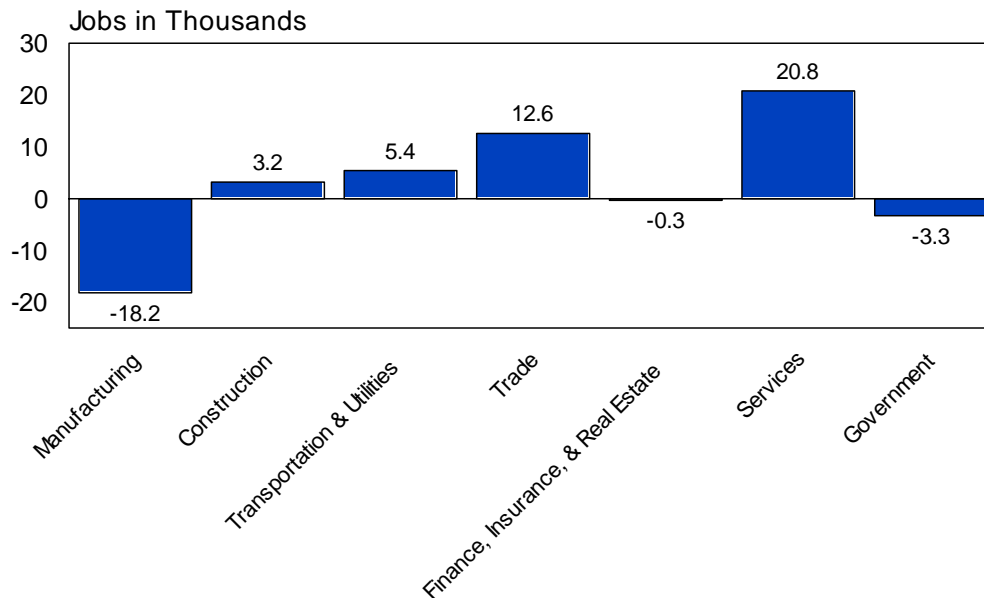
Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				May	Apr.	
UNITED STATES	141,272,000	135,103,000	6,169,000	4.4 %	4.5 %	-0.1 %
TENNESSEE	2,864,400	2,746,100	118,300	4.1	4.3	-0.2

Not Seasonally Adjusted						
UNITED STATES	141,048,000	135,202,000	5,846,000	4.1 %	4.2 %	-0.1 %
TENNESSEE	2,838,400	2,737,800	100,600	3.5	3.9	-0.4

## OVER THE YEAR JOB GROWTH

By Major Industry (May 2000-2001)



Note: Last year's Government employment included Census workers.

**County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, June 21, 2001.**

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**NOTE:** Information will be available on the Internet; enter "[http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor\\_figures](http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures)." Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

**NOTE:** Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.